UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION V
EMERGENCY AND ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE BRANCH

POLLUTION REPORT

DATE : MAY 26 1992

FROM : P. Steadman, OSC - RS-II

TO : R. Bowden, EERB
M. O'Mara, ESS
D. Bruce, RS-II
T. Nash, ORC
T. Geischecker, RS-III
K. Martin, OPA
T. Johnson, OSWER - H.Q.
J. Smith, Indiana Dept. of Env. Mgmt.
G. Downie, Elkhart County Health Department
M. Gustafson, RPM, Il/IN Remedial Response
C. Graszer, ESS
USCG District 9
USCG District 2
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5
481018

SUBJECT: Himco Dump Site, County Road 10, Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana Site I.D. #4J

POLREP: Number 1

RESPONSE AUTHORITY: CERCLA

NPL STATUS: NPL Site since February 1990

START DATE: 7 May 1992

1. **SITUATION:** The site is a former nonpermitted landfill developed within and over a wetland in northeast Elkhart, Indiana. The site was operated during the period of 1960 through 1976 for the disposal of primarily calcium sulfate waste by-products from Miles Laboratories. These wastes composed approximately 2/3s of all waste types received. Other wastes deposited included general domestic refuse and, reportedly, quantities of industrial waste materials. The capacity of the landfill includes 60 acres with wastes varying in depths from 10 to 15 feet.

   As a result of annual NPL Site removal assessments conducted by EERB, it was determined that unknown quantities of VOCs with very low flashpoints had been disposed within the site and dangerously close to residential units along the southeastern periphery of the facility. The site assessment, conducted on May 7 to ascertain threats to the public health and the environment at this site, disclosed that toluene, xylene,

2-hexanone, ethylbenzene, and 4-methyl-2-pentanone (MIBK) in concentrations as high as 480,000 ppm for toluene to a low of 6,400 ppm for ethylbenzene had been deposited within the site. These contaminants had been in an uncontrolled condition within leaking drums and were creating potential groundwater contamination hazards as well as threats of fire and explosion.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

The PRPs associated with this site, namely, Himco Waste-Away Services, Inc., were contacted by way of a 122(e) Notification of Potential Liability letter and a subsequent Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was issued to the PRP to conduct the prescribed emergency removal action within 72 hours of receipt. An Action Memorandum was also prepared in support of the prescribed removal which required excavation of specified areas within the southeastern portion of the site, removal of all VOC contaminants, and conduct an extent of contamination (EOC) survey within a 90 degree portion of this rough circular shaped site to ensure that no additional VOC hazardous substances are within the site area where the residences abut the site.

The PRP-lead removal action commenced on May 19, 1992 with the excavation of the identified VOC contaminated location. Excavation of the site to a depth of 6 feet, removal and overpacking of 71-55 gallon capacity VOC containing drums was accomplished and completed on May 22 with all contaminants subsequently pumped into a tanker truck for transport to fuel blending facility in Louisiana.

3. FUTURE ACTION:

The PRPs are to submit a QAPP and conduct QA Level 2 protocol for data validation of analyses of samples derived during the required EOC survey which is scheduled to commence on or about June 3, 1992.

4. ESTIMATED COSTS:

The Action Memorandum prepared in support of the removal action, based on use of the Removal Costs Management System (RCMS), indicates a cost of approximately $585,000 to initiate and complete the removal action specified for this facility.

To date, all costs incurred are borne by the PRP with oversight costs to be reimbursed to this Agency. Oversight costs would include OSC and RPM site activities, TES/TAT contractor use for assistance and verification sampling, and associated costs. The AOC

requires that the PRPs submit all costs associated with this removal once the expenditures are finalized.